

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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SUBJ: US STATEMENT ON UNRWA IN SPECIAL POLITICAL COMITE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MARK EFANS, US
PUBLIC DELEGATE, IN SPECIAL POLITICAL COMITE ON UNRWA:

QTE

MR YROLE, AS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY EXPLAINED, IS RATHER UNIQUE IN
THIS WORLD OF UNITED NATIONS DELEGATES. I AM ONE OF FOUR SO-CALLED
PUBLIC UNITED STATES DELEGATES. IN A MATTER OF WEEKS I WILL RETURN
TO MY OFFICE AS A BROADCAST EXECUTIVE A MUCH WISER CITIZEN, THANKS
TO MANY OF YOU, MY CURRENT COLLEAGUES.

I MENTION THIS ONLY BECAUSE IN A SENSE I CAN SPEAK MORE
FREELY THWN THOSE ABLE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE CIVIL SERVANTS. LET
ME SPEAK AS A U.S. TAXPAYER, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

FOR ALMOST TWO MONTHS, I HAVE LISTENED TO COUNTLESS WORDS,
ENDLESS HOURS OF DEBATE, AND CONSIDERABLE BREAST-BEATING CONCERNING
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A MAJOR MANDATE OF THE UN--THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS--THE

CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. MAY OF THE PROBLEMS IN THE PROTECTION OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS ARE COMPLICATED--SOME WILL DISAPPEAR IN TIME--SOME MAY PLAGUE MAN FOREVER. SOME ARE TANGIBLE AND STEPS CAN BE TWKEN NOW TO SOLVE THEM.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TAKES SECOND PLACE TO NO NATION IN ITS SINCERE DESIRE TO FIND JUST AND LASTING ANSWERS TO THE MIDDLE EAST DIFFICULTIES. WE RECOGNIZE THE UNRWA EFFORT IS BUT A BANDAID--THE PROVISION OF IMMEDIATE BASIC NEEDS FOR THE LONG-SUFFERING PALESTINIANS WHO DESERVE ABOVE ALL THE HUMAN RIGHT TO LIVE.

WE SINCERELY HOPE, DEVOUTLY PRAY, AND ARE WORKING TO SEE A SOLUTION FOR THE PROBLEMS OF THESE HARRIED, TORMENTED PEOPLE. PARENTHETICALLY, MR. CHAIRMAN, I HAVE VISITED THESE PEOPLE AS A JOURNALIST. IT WAS A SOUL-STIRRING SIGHT--IT HAUNTS MY MEMORY.

A HUNGRY STOMACH IS NOT SATISFIED BY POLITICAL MANEUVERING--A YOUNG MIND IS NOT FORTIFIED BY INTERNATIONAL RHETORIC. THESE ARE "NOW" PROBLEMS.

DIT#JOHN TRNNIR#HAS EARNED JUSTIFIED WORLD-WIDE GRATITUDE FOR BEING ABLE TO FULFILL HIS FRUSTRATING RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE MOST UNBELIEVABLY TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES. HE HAS ARTICULATED MOST EFFECTIVELY, MOST SINCERELY, THE PROBLEMS AND THE ALTERNATIVES. MY EARS STILL RING WITH THE SOUNDS OF THOSE WHO FEEL FOR MANKIND--FOR THOSE WHO POINT THE FINGER OF BLAME AT THOSE WHO ARE OBLIVIOUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

FOR SIX WEEKS WE HAVE LISTENED TO PLATITUDES ABOUT THE WORLD'S WRONGS. WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE DOWN-TRODDEN. AS A PUBLIC CITIZEN I AM A PRAGMATIST--THESE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DIS-POSSESSED, HOMELESS PEOPLE CANNOT EAT OUR WORDS--250,000 SCHOOL CHILDREN, 10,000 MORE THAN LAST YEAR, CANNOT STUDY THE NOBLE THOUGHTS EXPRESSED IN THIS CHAMBER.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS MY COUNTRY. WE ARE BLAMED FOR ALMOST EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN THE WORLD. I NOW SPEAK FOR MANY OF MY 200 MILLION FELLOW-CITIZENS WHO ARE PROUD OF OUR TANGIBLE CONCERN FOR THESE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. LET ME REMIND US ALL, THEIR PLIGHT IS THE RESULT OF UN ACTION* IN GOOD FAITH THE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNITED NATIONS HAS UNDERTAKEN TO HELP THEM UNTIL LONG-RANGE ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND. HOW CAN NATIONS OF SUBSTANCE DUCK THIS CHALLENGE? HOW CAN NATIONS OF SUBSTANCE AVOID THIS CHALLENGE? HOW CAN NATIONS OF SUBSTANCE IGNORE THIS CHALLENGE? HOW CAN WE SPEAK SANCTIMONIOUSLY ABOUT PRESERVATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIL TO GIVE A HELPING HAND, EVEN A TOKEN HAND, TO THESE HOMELESS SOULS? WE HAVE AN EXPRESSION IN OUR COUNTRY WHICH SAYS, "PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS." THIS COMMITTEE COULD DO WELL TO ADOPT THAT

SAYING.

LOOK AT THE BALANCE SHEET--FACE THE FACTS. I FIND IT LITERALLY INCOMPREHENSIBLE THAT RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION YEAR AFTER YEAR AFTER YEAR, CAN SPEAK SO FEELINGLY OF THEIR COMPASSION FOR THESE HUMAN BEINGS AND FAIL TO GIVE ONE RED CENT TO ALLEVIATE HUMAN SUFFERING--HUMAN DEPRIVATION. SADLY, THESE ARE GREAT POWERS WHICH GIVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, AS WELL AS AFFLUENT COUNTRIES WHICH MAKE ONLY TOKEN CONTRIBUTIONS. DOES ANYONE DOUBT THAT DISTINGUISHED INTERNATIONAL SERVANT, SIR JONE RENNIE? WILL THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM JUST GO AWAY?

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS GIVEN UNRWA SINCE 1950 HALF A BILLION DOLLARS, TO BE EXACT, \$548,924,592. THESE ARE HARD EARNED AMERICAN TAX DOLLARS. AND, I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THEY ARE NEEDED AT HOME. THEY ARE GIVEN FREELY IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY. OF THE \$849 MILLION CONTRIBUTED BY GOVERNMENTS, \$548 MILLION--OVER 64 PERCENT--CAME FROM MY COUNTRY.

LET MET FURTHER ADD, FOR JIR JOHN, WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO DO OUR SHARE. IT WILL BE MUCH EASIER, HOWEVER, IF MY FELLOW DELEGATES WILL EARNESTLY STRIVE TO PERSUADE THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO JOIN IN THIS BATTLE--ONE OF THE UN'S NOBLER EFFORTS.

LET US HOPE FOR ONCE IN THIS CASE, THAT ALL SIDES CEASE THE WRANGLING. THERE IS BLAME ENOUGH TO GO AROUND. LET'S UNITE AS HUMAN BEINGS. LET'S FIGHT SUFFERING ON ALL FRONTS AND THEN AND ONLY THEN CAN WE JUSTIFIABLY WAVE OUR BLUE FLAG AS NATIONS LITERALLY UNITED. LET ME QUOTE OUR CHARTER. WE ARE DEDICATED T
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